

MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendents, Special Education Administrators, and Curriculum Coordinators

FROM: Karin Edwards, Division Director, ISL PK-8 Debbie Lesure, Assistant Division Director, ISL PK-8

SUBJECT: FY16 BEST/Act 230 Grant Application Process

DATE: July 31, 2015

Rebecca Holcombe, Secretary of Education, has designated implementation of evidence-based practices that support school climate and student proficiency within Vermont's Multi-Tiered System of Supports (VT MTSS), including Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS/MTSS-B) as the priority areas for use of Act 230 funds for FY16.

The Vermont Agency of Education's Integrated Support for Learning Division is pleased to announce the application process for FY 16 BEST/Act 230 Grants. Each Vermont supervisory union/district may apply for BEST/Act 230 funds up to \$6,500.00 for the designated purposes.

Additionally, Supervisory Unions may apply for an Innovation Grant for the 2015-2016 SY. The intent of this grant is to allow supervisory unions and schools to research and implement innovative systemic changes leading to improved student outcomes. Grant requests must be related to the Education Quality Standards (EQS), such as school climate, proficiency based learning, personalized learning plans (PLPs), alignment of PLPs and IEPs, multi-tiered systems of support, etc. Applicants may apply for an Innovation Grant of up to \$20,000. Grant applications will be reviewed by Agency of Education reviewers and any award amount will be determined by the reviewers. The grant may be approved in full, in part, or not approved.

Approvable costs for these funds are: Professional learning activities that support implementation of the EQS, evidence-based practices in VT MTSS, and school climate. This includes costs for professional learning events in the Vermont Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (VTPBiS) and BEST Professional Development Calendar SY 2015-16 posted on the VTPBiS website at www.pbisvermont.org.

- Approvable costs include registration, trainer fees, training materials, mileage, lodging, meals and data collection/reporting system licenses (e.g., SWIS).
- Staff time, stipends and substitute costs are **not** approvable; but may be used as in-kind costs assumed by the applicant.

BEST/Act 230 including the Innovation Grant will be found in Grantium at <https://grants.vermont.gov/vermont/frontOffice.jsf>. Applications MUST be submitted on or before October 15, 2015. No grant activities can occur before the grant application is approved. Activities funded by this grant must be completed by June 30, 2016. No funds can be carried over from year to year. If you have questions, please email Sabine Baldwin at sabine.baldwin@vermont.gov.